

# WORDS OF WISDOM

... by Bill Wisdom

North Deals. Both Vulnerable.

Results: Par +1400

NS: 6H, 6D, 4NT, 1C

EW: 1S, 6Sx-5

**North - Dealer** (11 points)

♠ K  
♥ Q 7 3  
♦ A J 9 8 6 5 3 2  
♣ J

**West** (3 points)

♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 3  
♥ J 10 9  
♦ 4  
♣ Q 8 4

**East** (7 points)

♠ J 6 4 2  
♥ 5  
♦ K 10 7  
♣ K 10 7 6 3

**South** (19 points)

♠ A Q  
♥ A K 8 6 4 2  
♦ Q  
♣ A 9 5 2

Another slam hand from the August 24 STaC game. Where would you want to play the hand? It looks like 6♦ is pretty safe, unless diamonds split 4-0. However, out of 17 pairs, only 2 played the slam in diamonds. Six hearts has an interesting line of play. It was bid five times; only 2 declarers made it. With South as declarer, how would you play 6♥ with the 4♦ lead? If ever a lead is an obvious singleton, this is it. So ... you must win the A♦. Now what? If you try to ruff clubs on the board, you will wind up with 2 losers ... a club and a heart.

To make the hand, you need to ruff a diamond immediately. This is a very counter-intuitive play, but it is the only way to make it. West can over-ruff to both set up the diamond and get back to them. Half the declarers in 4♥ made six. The other made 6. It is a very tricky hand.